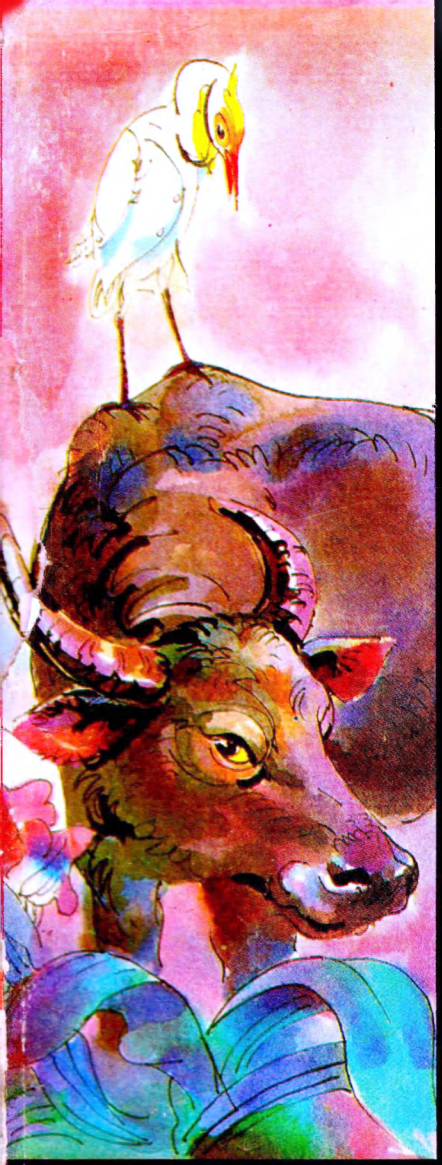

The Bird Doctors

Beginning Science

CHINESE FAIRY TALE

The Bird Doctors

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DOLPHIN BOOKS BEIJING

First Edition 1988

Hard Cover: ISBN 0-8351-1864-9
Paperback: ISBN 0-8351-1875-7

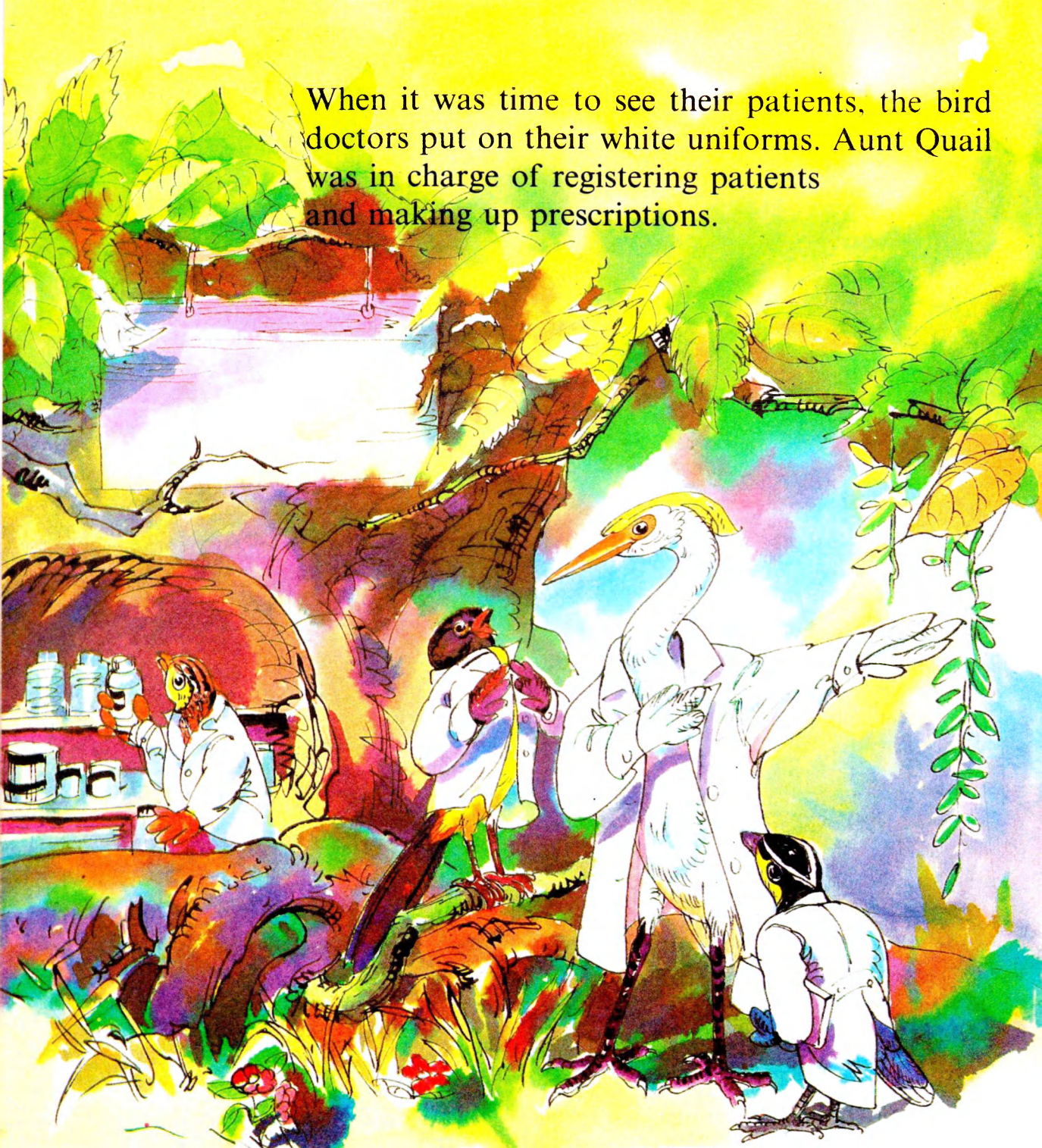
Copyright 1988 by Dolphin Books

Published by Dolphin Books
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, China

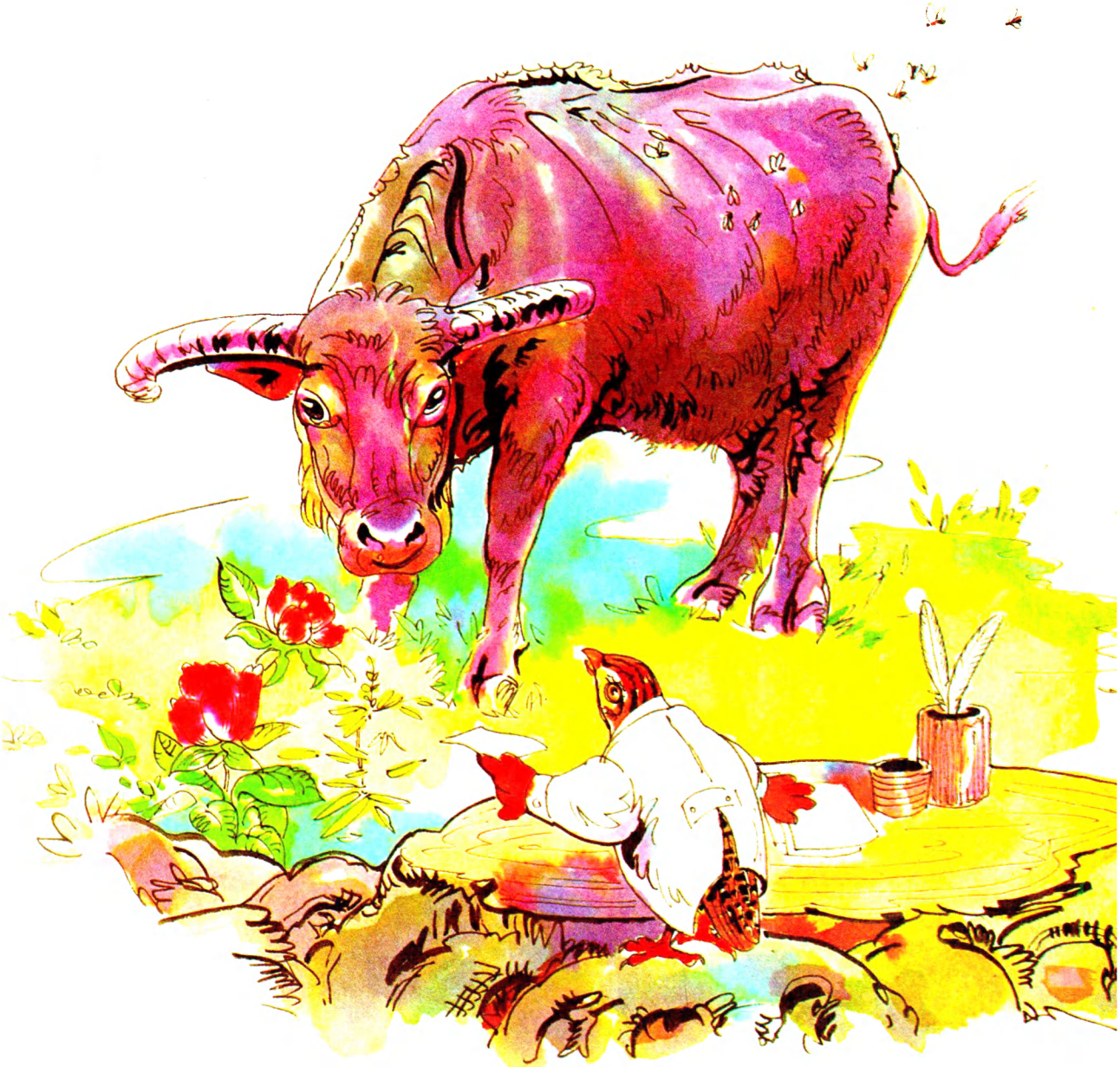
Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation
(Guoji Shudian), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

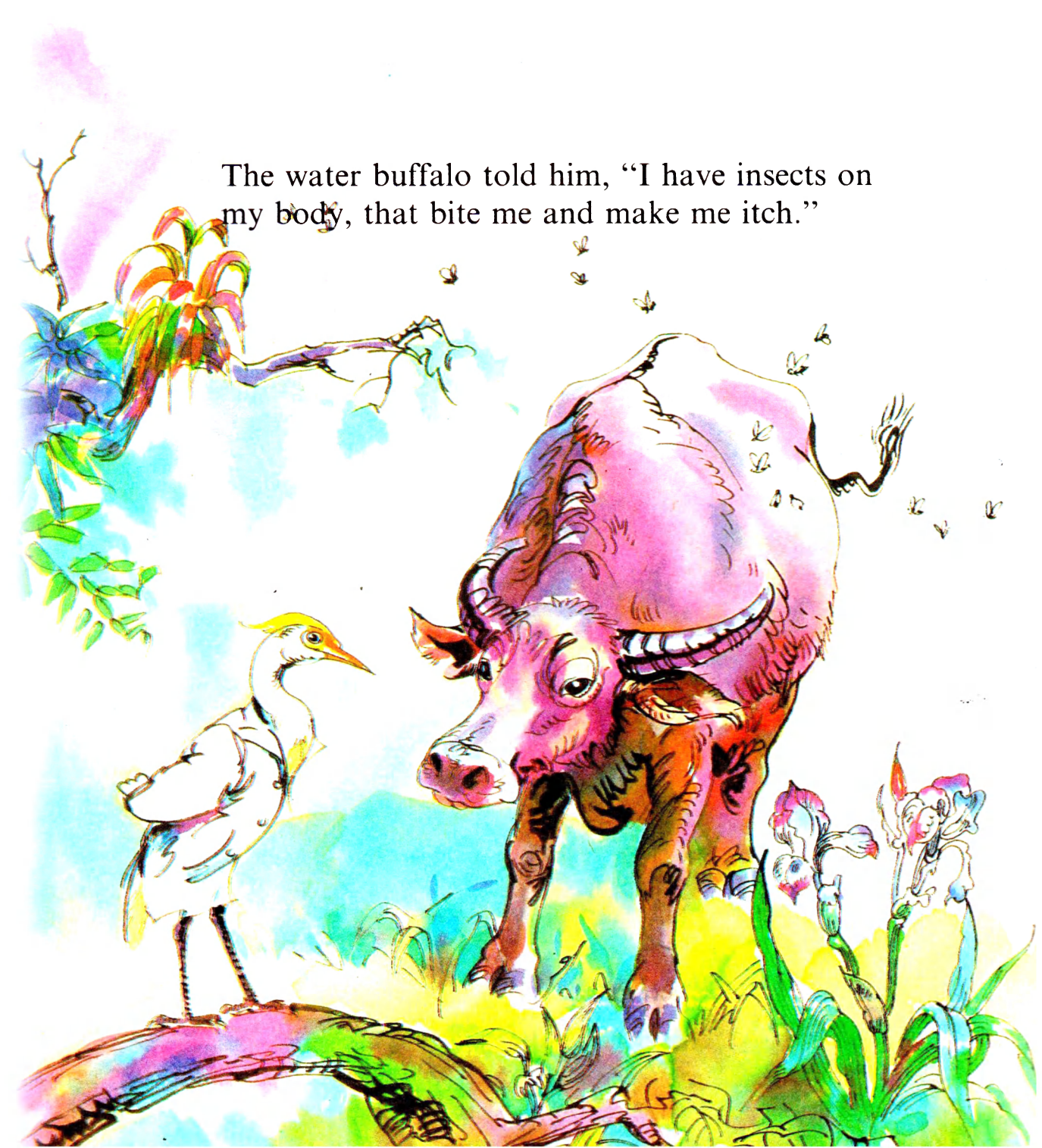
Three bird doctors decided to set up a clinic. They hung up a board saying, "We cure parasites."



When it was time to see their patients, the bird doctors put on their white uniforms. Aunt Quail was in charge of registering patients and making up prescriptions.

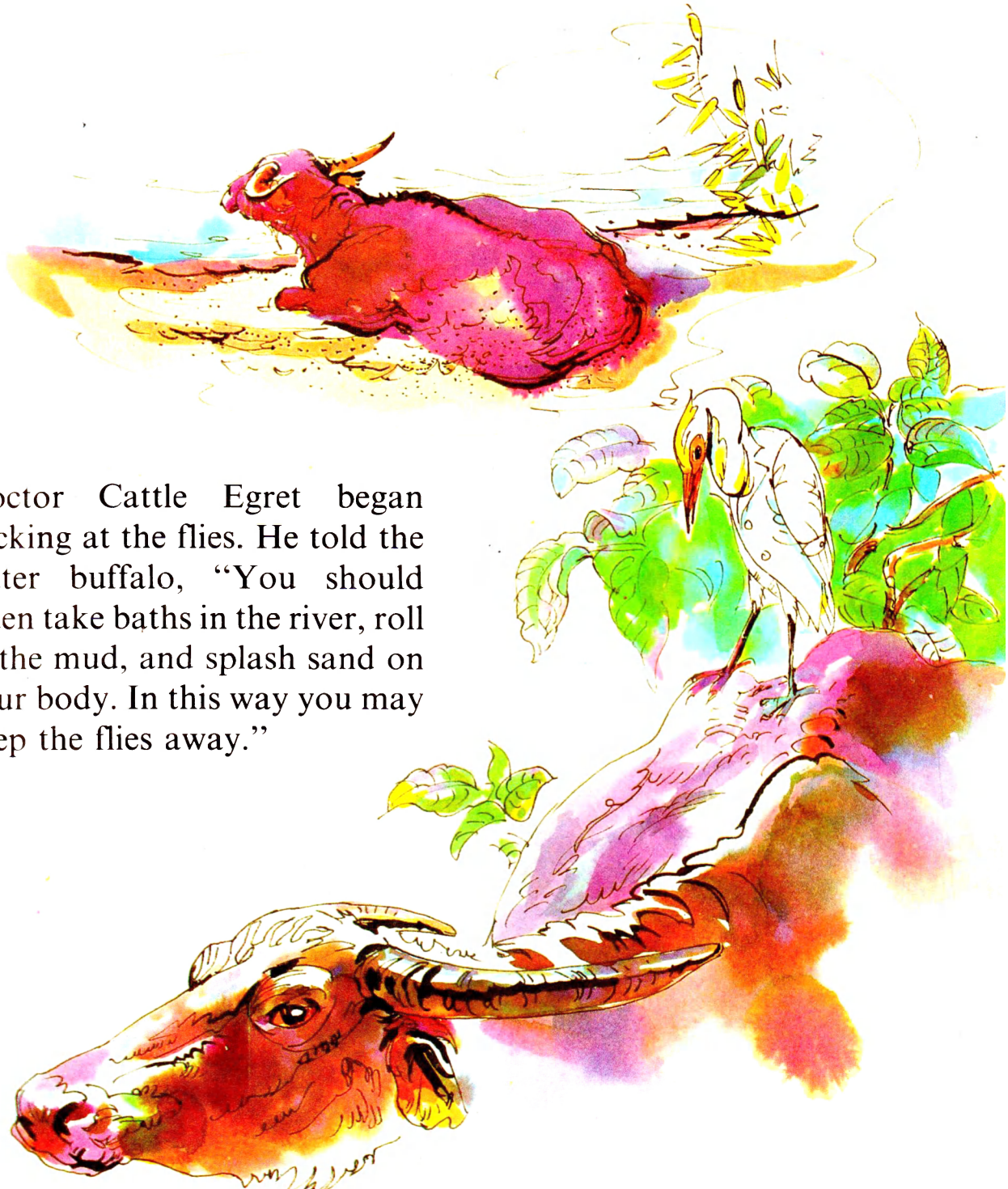


The water buffalo complained that her skin itched terribly and asked if it could be cured. Aunt Quail sent her to the skin care department to see Doctor Cattle Egret.



The water buffalo told him, "I have insects on my body, that bite me and make me itch."

Doctor Cattle Egret flew up to the water buffalo's back and found many flies were biting her.



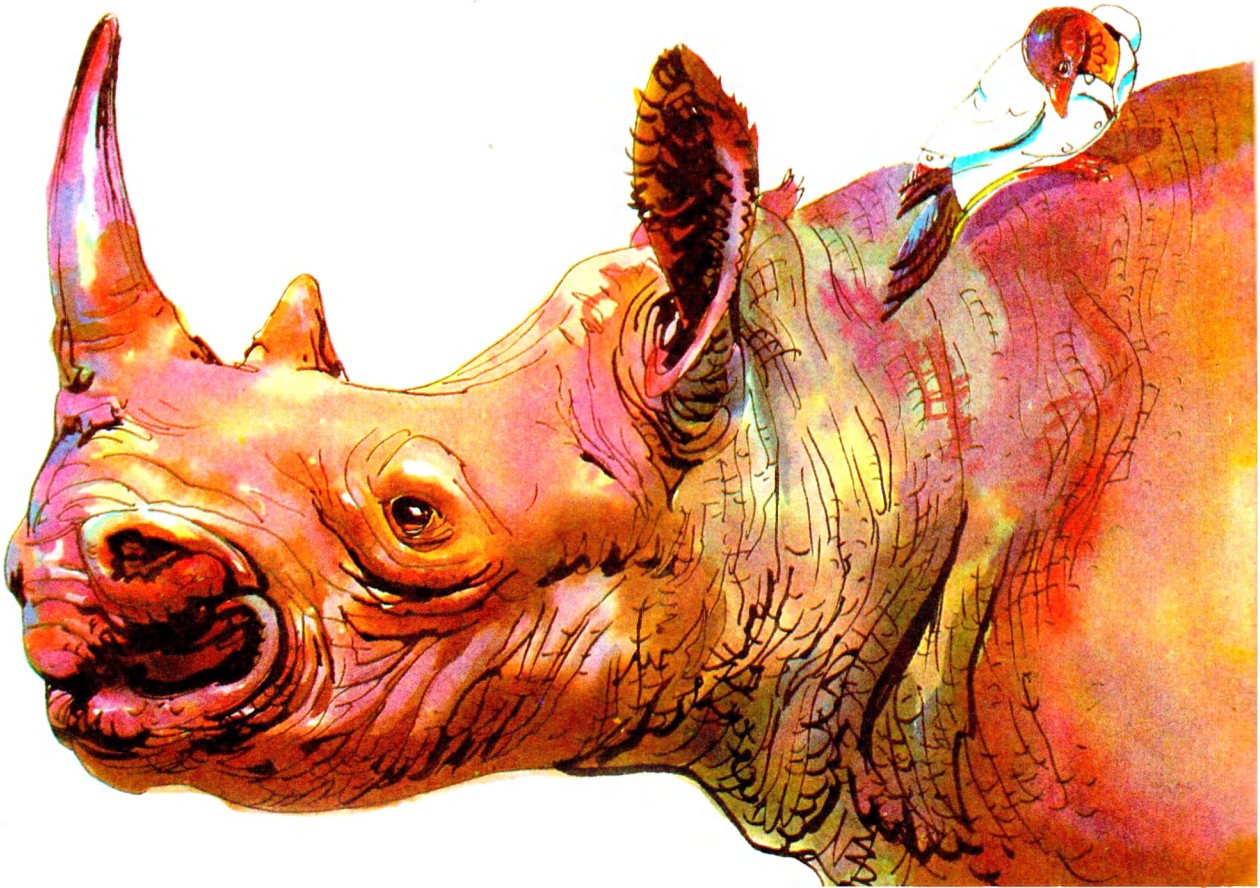
Doctor Cattle Egret began pecking at the flies. He told the water buffalo, "You should often take baths in the river, roll in the mud, and splash sand on your body. In this way you may keep the flies away."

The water buffalo thanked him and went away feeling much better.

The next patient at the clinic was a rhinoceros.
Aunt Quail sent him to see Doctor Tickbird.

The rhinoceros said to Doctor Tickbird, "I am huge and fierce but even I am helpless against these annoying little insects."

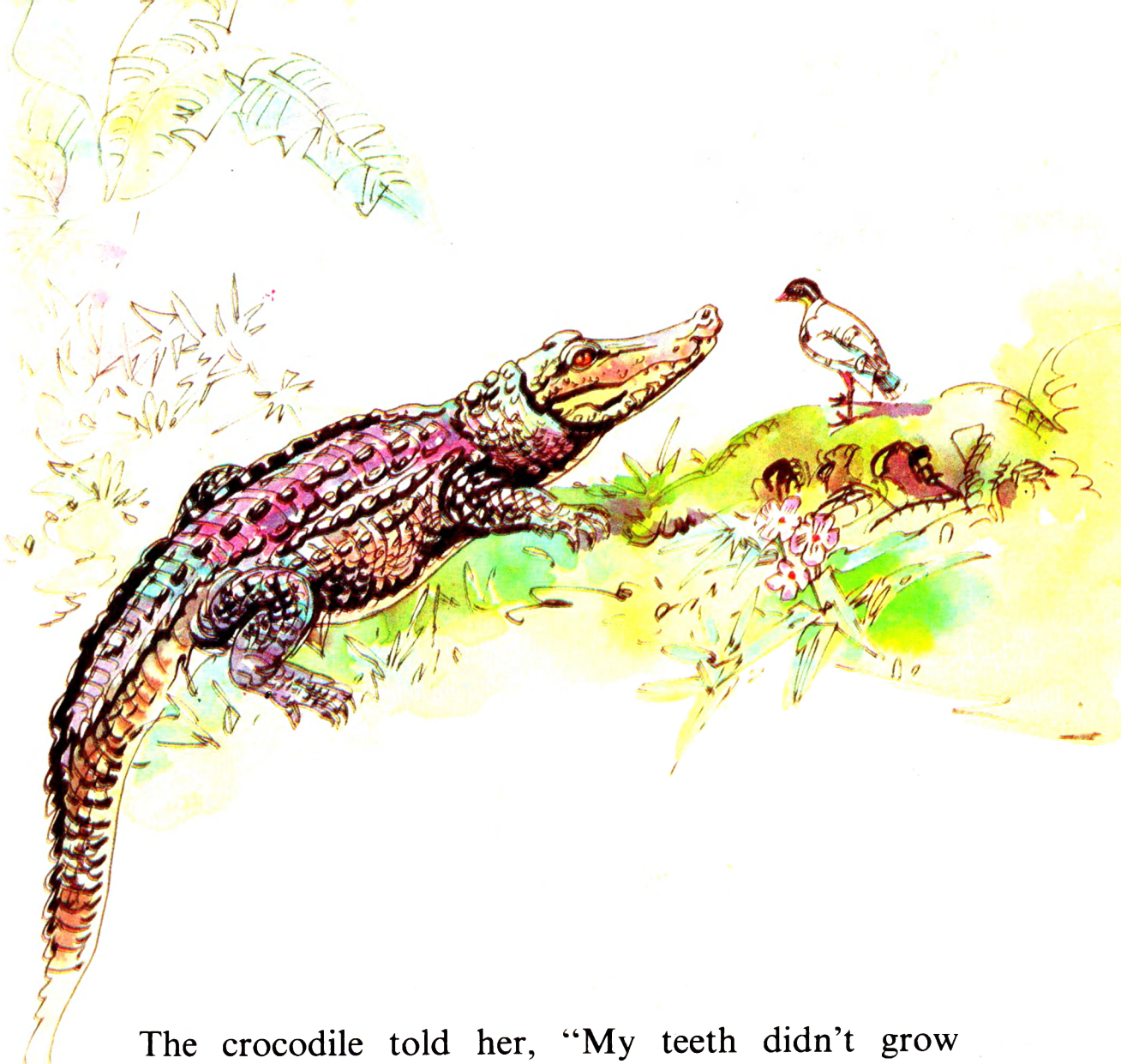
Doctor Tickbird examined him and found that there were many folds in the rhinoceros' hide where the skin as extremely delicate and filled with blood vessels and nerves. Parasites had climbed deep into these folds to bite. The pain and itching were unbearable.



Doctor Tickbird stood on the rhinoceros' back and ate all the parasites. The pain and itching disappeared. Doctor Tickbird told the rhinoceros, "Whenever they start bothering you again, please come back."

"Thank you," said the rhinoceros. He left f[illegible]ch
more cheerful.

Then a crocodile arrived at the clinic, holding his front claw to his mouth. Aunt Quail sent him to see Doctor Crocodile Bird in the dental department.

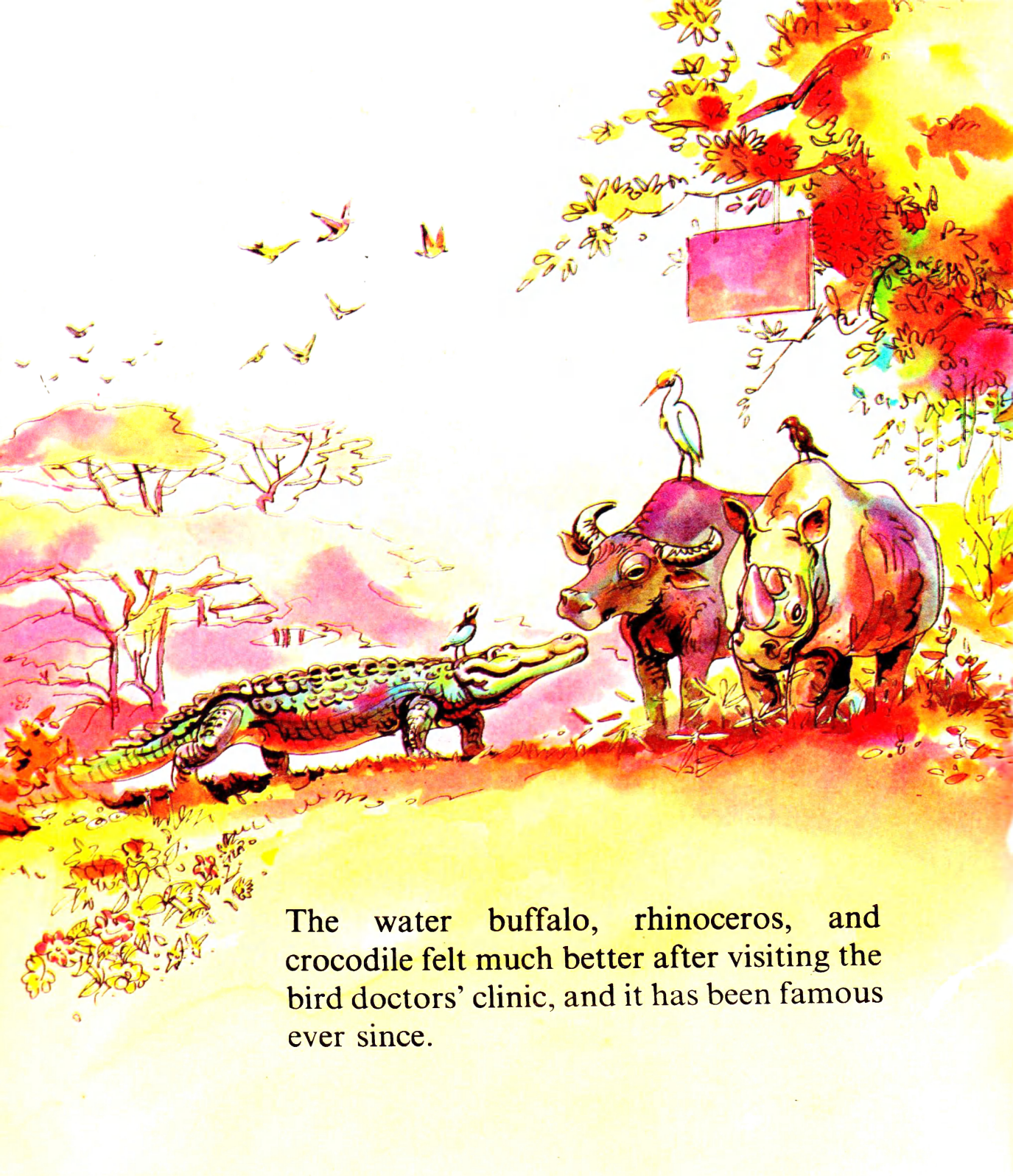


The crocodile told her, "My teeth didn't grow properly, and there are not many of them. I may have some insects in my teeth since I don't brush them."

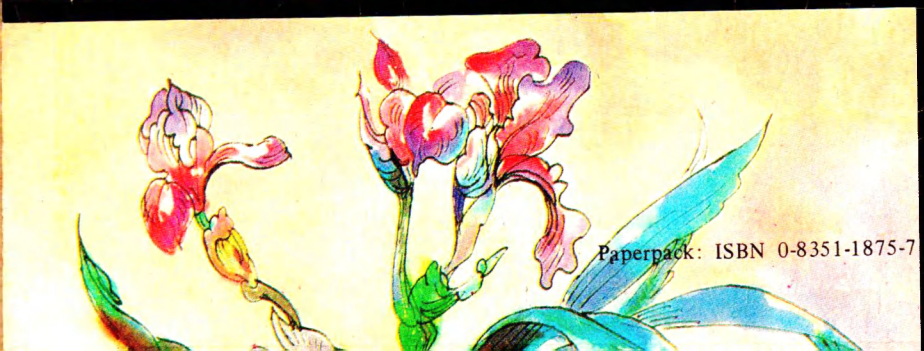
Doctor Crocodile Bird ordered the crocodile to open his mouth wide. She jumped inside and took a close look. She found that the crevices between the crocodile's teeth were full of decayed bits of meat, and small insects were feeding off the remains of the meat.

Doctor Crocodile Bird gave the crocodile's mouth a complete cleaning. She picked at his teeth and ate all the insects. The crocodile felt much more comfortable afterwards.

The crocodile held up his claw and said, "You are a great dentist. Thank you very much." Doctor Crocodile Bird smiled and replied, "You are welcome. Whenever there is anything wrong with your teeth,you can count on me."



The water buffalo, rhinoceros, and crocodile felt much better after visiting the bird doctors' clinic, and it has been famous ever since.



Paperpack: ISBN 0-8351-1875-7

科学童话
鸟 医 生
林颂英 文
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海豚出版社出版
（中国北京百万庄路24号）
天津静一印刷厂印刷
中国国际图书贸易总公司
（中国国际书店）发行
北京399信箱
1988年（20开）第一版
（英）
ISBN 7-80051-224-X/J·295(外)
00175
88—E—319p